DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 377 874 IR 055 360

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TITLE	Appreciating Diversity through Children's Literature: Teaching Activities for the Primary Grades.
REPORT NO	ISBN-1-56308-117-2
PUB DATE	94
NOTE	135p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Teacher Ideas Press, P.O. Box 6633, Englewood, CO 80155-6633 ($23).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Age Differences; *Childrens Literature; *Class Activities; Cultural Activities; *Cultural Awareness; *Cultural Differences; *Cultural Education; Disabilities; Ethnic Groups; Interviews; Role Playing; Sex Differences; Special Needs Students; Story Telling; *Teaching Methods
IDENTIFIERS	Diversity (Groups)

ABSTRACT

Because diversity is a fact of life in our rapidly changing, complex, and interdependent world, appreciating diversity is essential. This resource goes beyond teaching tolerance and understanding of diversity. It gives educators the tools for teaching children to value the differences between people. Using literature as a springboard, educators can help students acquire the knowledge, ability, and disposition to practice citizenship in a democratic society. Techniques such as role-playing, interviewing, and storytelling focus on four types of diversity: age, gender, physical abilities, and ethnicity. Intended to be used with children in kindergarten through third grade, each chapter opens with an explanation and interpretation of the main idea that the recommended books and activities will reflect, followed by the feature and related titles, annotated bibliography, and explanation of the book's potential for citizenship teaching. Through recommended classroom activities and based on the three dimensions of citizenship characterized by Martorella in 1985, students are encouraged to think (Head), feel (Heart), and take action (Hands). An epilogue answers the questions: Who should use these teaching ideas?; How can they be implemented most effectively?; and How should they be incorporated into the regular curriculum? A bibliography offers 72 additional resources. (MAS)

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